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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

30 December 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

South Korea - Japan: [South Korea has raised a last-minute obstacle to the settlement of two major issues with Japan--the exchange of Japanese fishermen seized by South Korea in return for Korean illegal entrants being held in Japan and a program for repatriation of Korean residents in Japan to South Korea. South Korea's ambassador in Japan implied to the US ambassador on 28 December that a final settlement was conditional on United States willingness to provide financial assistance for the resettlement of the repatriates. Further procrastination by Seoul in returning the fishermen will undermine the Tokyo government's efforts to counter growing demands in Japan for a stronger policy toward South Korea.]

Meanwhile, the program for repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan to North Korea is continuing, but South Korean agitation against this has recently abated.

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Watch Committee Conclusions: [The following developments are susceptible of direct exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which could jeopardize the security of the US in the immediate future:]

[In Iraq the influence of the Communists continues to disturb Nationalist elements, and a new attempt to assassinate Qasim could occur at any time.]

UO [In Laos, differences between the anti-Communist elements are still unresolved. The position of the CDNI supported by influential army elements and apparently by the King seems to have been enhanced. The likelihood of a coup attempt by the CDNI accordingly seems to have diminished.]

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N^o UAR: [A crisis has developed between UAR President Nasir and leaders of the Syrian Baath party who have resisted the growing domination of the Syrian administration by Egyptian officials. Four Syrian Baathist ministers, including Akram Hawrani, a UAR vice president, have submitted their resignations in the past few days, and some 40 Syrian Baathist army officers reportedly have been sent to Cairo as a precautionary measure. The final downfall of the socialist-minded Baath in Syria--which was one of the leading proponents of the union of Egypt and Syria--would be welcomed by the more conservative political elements in Syria; in the longer run, however, it might result in greater resentment against the Egyptians because it would tend to make Egyptian control of Syria more direct and obvious.]

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30 Dec 59

DAILY BRIEF

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Seoul Raises New Obstacle to Agreement with Tokyo

[South Korea has raised a last-minute obstacle to agreement with Japan on settlement of two major issues--the exchange of Japanese fishermen held by South Korea for illegal Korean entrants detained by Japan and the repatriation of Koreans in Japan to South Korea. South Korean Ambassador Yu Tai-ha in Tokyo implied on 28 December that a final settlement could not be reached unless the United States would provide advance financial assistance for the resettlement of the prospective Korean repatriates.]

[To secure the return of its fishermen, Tokyo has agreed to seek Diet approval to provide Korean repatriates to South Korea the amount of \$1,500 per five- to six-person family, following an over-all settlement of Japanese-South Korean differences. Tokyo has implied that further procrastination in returning the fishermen may force it to take sterner measures, such as referring outstanding issues between the two governments to the United Nations, arming its patrol craft along the "Rhee fishing line," evicting the South Korean mission in Japan, or establishing "official" trade relations with North Korea.]

[Seoul is holding about 200 Japanese fishermen seized for violation of the unilaterally imposed Rhee line, most of whom have completed sentences imposed by South Korean courts. Japan is believed to be holding some 300 illegal Korean entrants.]

[According to the South Korean foreign minister, Yu had led President Rhee to believe that the United States would provide financial aid for the repatriates. Without such an arrangement, the foreign minister told Ambassador McConaughy, the Tokyo negotiations are again up in the air.]

[Meanwhile, the repatriation of about 5,000 Koreans in Japan who have so far requested to go to North Korea is continuing. On 28 December the third group of about 1,000 left Japan without incident. South Korea has moderated its agitation against the repatriation, but it requested on 27 December that the United States take "necessary action" to halt the program.]

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